

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 13, 14 and 16-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4 and 16 are amended, and claim 19 is added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 16 and 17.

I. Claim Objections and Rejections

The Office Action objects to claim 4 for informality. Claim 4 is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 13, 14 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 16 is indicated to be allowed and rejected. Clarification is requested. Nonetheless, claims 1 and 16 are amended to obviate the rejection. Claims 2, 4-9, 11, 13, 14 and 18 depend from claim 1, and claim 17 depends from claim 16. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,676,050 to Chang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,758,392 to Bennett et al. (Bennett) and U.S. Patent No. 4,547,002 to Colgate, Jr. (Colgate). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a data destroy process unit that is provided along the transport path and that destroys electronic data stored in the electronic data storage device as the paper passes thereby along the transport path, and a shredding process unit that is provided along the same transport path. As shown in Fig. 2 of the application, for example, the data destroy processing unit (discharge unit 20) and the shredding process unit (shredding cutters 21-1, 22-2) are provided along the same transport path through which the paper 40 is transported.

The Office Action alleges that a compact disc inlet 12 of Chang corresponds to the recited transport path, that a paper shredder 1 of Chang corresponds to the recited data destroy process unit, and that the rolling blade wheels 20 and 30 correspond to the shredding process

unit. However, the paper shredder 1 of Chang is a main unit that includes the compact disc inlet 12 therein. See Fig. 4 of Chang. Therefore, according to Chang, the paper shredder 1 cannot be provided along the compact disc inlet 12. Moreover, the paper shredder 1 and the rolling blade wheels 20, 30 of Chang are not provided along the same transport path. Thus, even if the compact disc inlet 12 and the paper shredder 1 of Chang did correspond to the transport path and data destroy process unit of claim 1, respectively, Chang still would not have taught or suggested a shredding unit provided along the same transport path as recited in claim 1.

Neither Bennett nor Colgate overcomes Chang's deficiency. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the applied references.

Claims 2, 5, 6 and 11 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 7-9 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chang in view of Bennett and Colgate as applied above, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,931,770 to Abramson and U.S. Patent No. 4,879,724 to Matsumoto et al. (Matsumoto). The Office Action also rejects claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chang in view of Bennett and Colgate, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,038,012 to Bley. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Abramson, Matsumoto and Bley fail to remedy the deficiencies of Chang, Bennett and Colgate as discussed above. Therefore, the applied references do not teach or suggest the features recited in claim 1. Therefore, claims 4, 7-9, 13, 14 and 18 are patentable over the applied references at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. As such, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

New claim 19 recites that the insertion port comprises a single insertion port. This feature is supported in Fig 2. None of the applied references teach or suggest this feature.

Thus, claim 19 is allowable at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional feature it recites.

II. Advisory Action

The Advisory Action states that Applicants presented an alternative interpretation of the Chang reference. Then, the Advisory Action asserts that "even if the Chang reference does not read on the claimed invention according to the alternative interpretation, that does not mean the claim rejections in the last Office [A]ction are incorrect." The Advisory Action further asserts that "Applicant has not presented as to why the claim rejection in the last Office action is supposedly incorrect."

Applicants respectfully submit that the reference must be considered as a whole, and that the arguments presented herein are based on what Chang discloses. The Advisory Action does not address why Applicants' arguments, even if they are based on an alternative interpretation, do not overcome the rejection. Therefore, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to fully address Applicants' arguments.

Furthermore, contrary to the assertion made in the Advisory Action, the claims as amended do place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal. For example, independent claims 1 and 16 are amended to further clarify that the sensing unit senses whether the data storage device is attached to the paper entering the shredding apparatus.

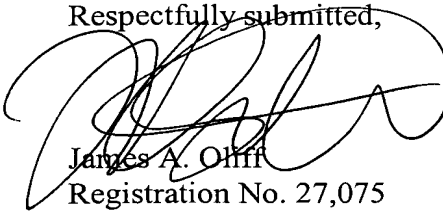
Furthermore, new claim 19 recites a single inlet port whereas Chang specifically discloses two inlet ports (see Fig. 4 of Chang).

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 5, 2007

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